profile for development of marketing infrastructure. Subsequently, this was followed by a detailed proposal in May, 1997 for financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 9680 lakhs for the development of Post Harvest Management and other market infrastructure.

(b) The proposals submitted by the State Government of Tripura were examined by the Ministry of Rural Development and a new scheme for development of agricultural marketing strategies in the North-Eastern States was prepared. However, these proposals could not be approved as they were not covered by the schemes relating to agricultural marketing under the Ninth Five Year Plan and the inability of the Planning Commission to allocate additional funds for the scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

Government have recently approved a Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticultural Produce with a view to giving a major thrust for development of Post Harvest Management infrastructure in the country, including in the North Eastern States.

Activities of ICCR

*367. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research and extension activities taken up by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) during last five years;

(b) particulars of groups sponsored/deputed by ICCR for performance of art, culture and other activities during the last three years indicating Country, specific occasion, period and type of programmes;

(c) list of artist or groups from the North-Eastern Region who were sponsored/deputed for such occasions;

(d) whether it has been decided to include traditional art and cultural groups from the region in future;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) does not conduct "research and extension activities".

(b) The particulars of cultural groups sponsored/deputed by the ICCR for performances abroad during the last three years are enclosed at *Annexure [See* Appendix 188, Annexure No.—62].

(c) List of artistes and groups from the North-Eastern Region sponsored/deputed by the ICCR is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) The ICCR has been sponsoring traditional art and cultural groups from the North-Eastern Region and will continue to do so. Details of groups to be sponsored/deputed abroad in the next financial year are yet to be decided by the Council.

(f) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Indian Council for Cultural Relations Outgoing Cutural Delegations 1996-97

Groups Sponsored Abroad from North-East Region

S.No.	Country	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of Visit
1.	Singapore	Mask Dance Group X 12, Gangtok	26—30 May, 1996	To give performance at inauguration of Singapore Art Festival.
2.	Sri-Lanka	12-Member Pung Cholam and Dhol Cholam group, Imphal	14—18 August, 1996	To perform in the "SAARC Drumming and Dance Festival".
3.	Russia	BIHU-12 Guwahati	16—28 September, 1996	To give performances during the "Days of Indian Culture" in Russia.
4.	Vietnam	Pung Cholam (Drums of Manipur) X 6, Imphal	7—17 October, 1996	To Participate "Days of Indian Culture" in Vietnam.
5-6.	Bangladesh	Pung and Dhol Cholam X 10, Imphal & Snow, Yak Lion Dance X 10 Gangtok	18—30 November, 1996	Utsav—The India Festival.
		1997-98		
7.	Mauritius Reunion Islands	Pung Cholam and Dhol Cholam Group (Jagoi Marup Group) X 9, Imphal.	1—14 July, 1997	To give performances on the occasion of "Made in India Show" being Organised by Confederation of Indian Industries.
8.	Sri-Lanka	Uttar Priyadarshi by Chorus repertory Theatre of Shri	11—19 August, 1997	To give performances.

S.No.	Country	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of Visit
9.	Canada	Rattan Thiyam X 28, Imphal, Travel Grant to Ms. H. Vijayantimala Devi, Manipuri	12—19 August, 1997	Request from Mission for presentation of Special Multimedia Dance Theatre Production, "Muktinad".
10.	U.K.	Shri Lokendra Arambam Theatre Group X 5, Imphal	7—27 August, 1997	To present a joint production "Macbeth" with Waterman IC. London.
11.	South Africa	Vasant Rass & Pung Cholam Group X 15, Imphal	15—30 August, 1997	To give performances.
12.	Zambia Lesotho	Ms. Aimoni Gagoi (Bihu Group) X 11, Guwahati	3—9 September, 1997	To participate in the "Days of Indian Culture".
13.	Kazakhstan			
		1998-99		
14.	Portugal, Denmark, Hungary, Italy	Pung Cholam & Dhol Cholam X 10, Imphal	July, 1998	To participate in the World EXPO '98 and thereafter to Tour the Region.
15.	Seychelles Reunion Islands Sourth Africa	Hengerabari Asom Kala Kendra, (Bihu Group) X 14 Guwahati	13—23 August, 1998	To give performances
16.	USA	Smt. Pushpa Bhuyan (Sattriya Dance) X 4, Guwahati	29 July — 29 August, 1998	To give performances at the invitation of the Indian Forum Utah (IFU), Salt Lake, the proposal was originally approved by the former president, ICCR. Visit could not take place earlier due to illness of MS. Bhuyan.
17.	Bangladesh	Shri Ratan Thiyam (Theatre) X 30, Imphal	7—12 March, 1999	To give performances during the "India Trade Exhibition" organised by ITPO in Association with HCI, Dhaka.